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Fort Lee
10 Mo: 14th

Dear Anna

I find that I am greatly indebted to thee in the letter line for I have heard twice from thee since I last wrote & feel almost ashamed that it is so, but will try in this to make reparation. I will take up thy letters in order, & first let me thank thee for the particular account which thou gavest me of Abby Kelly in the New England Convention. I felt assured that she had not rendered herself ridiculous, for I thot I knew her too well, as also the person from whom the account so unfavorable to her came. Still we must not be surprized to find how very hard the practical part of the woman question works even with those who profess to be converted to the theory.

I hope that Abby will feel it her duty to open her mouth for the dumb & that she will "not be afraid of any amazement", but if she ever does come out as a public lecturer I am sure she will have a fiery baptism to pass through preparatory to the work. Thou wishest that the way might be opened before her, now I hope she may not find the way into this field of labor too easy. If she is called to it, she may expect to have her faith severely tried, for "none are so blind as the Lords servants," & if she goes out I trust it may not be by sight, i.e that she will not wait for outward circumstances to bend before her, but let her go & they will be bent by her faithfulness to required duty— Let her yield her mind up to the work with the simple hearted trust of a little child & a companion & every other needful thing will be provided:

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At least, so it was in my case, for when I determined to go out in behalf of the slave, I had no more idea of my Sisters accompanying me than I have now of going to England. They that trust in the Lord shall *never* be confounded, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.

As to the place where the next Womens Convention had better be held, as Sister wrote to Maria fully on that subject I will merely refer thee to her letter for my sentiments — As to my individual feelings of preference they are so much in favor of Boston that I almost dread the idea of going back to Philadelphia to meet the comparative lukewarmness & inefficiency of abolitionism there. Can't we gather strength enough to overcome it? — With regard to the suppression of the minutes relative to the discussion of the subject of a public meeting, Sister S says that she made enquiry whilst she was in Phil^a last month, and that the publishing Committee said they were *not* accepted — not then sure that they were — we do not remember and are very sorry they were omitted. I agree with thee entirely as to the inferiority and tameness of the minutes of the Convention. The spirit which breathed thro' the first is hardly perceptible in the last.

Thy last letter is almost altogether about the Peace Convention — And so thou hast actually signed the Declaration of Sentiments adopted by the Peace Convention. If thou art convinced on mature reflexion that these views are based on immutable Truth then thou hast done perfectly right even tho' but 3 out of the 150 persons had subscribed them. For my own part I have always seen some difficulties connected with this question which I could not solve & which kept me from lecturing in the Odeon upon it when applied to by Amasa Walker. For many years I have been convinced that the fundamental principles of morality upon which the Jewish system was founded were the *same* upon which the Gospel system was built. I never so fully examined this great subject as to be able to reconcile them in every particular tho' I am convinced they are reconcilable. Of course then I could not sign the Declaration which solemnly asserts that Jesus Christ revoked the penal code of the Old Testament & substituted for it the forgiveness of enemies. The forgiveness of enemies I believe was no *new* law to the Jews when our Savior insisted upon it, but an old command upon which the saints of olden time had *always* acted. Look for instance at Joseph — where shall we find a more beautiful illustration of this principle — look too at David & Saul. It has long appeared to me that in the 5th chap of Matt. Christ was drawing a contrast between the perversions of Jewish traditions & the immutable law of God — not between the Mosaic & Christian Dispensations — The law, "an eye for an eye & a tooth for tooth" never was designed to sanction private revenge — the penalty was to be inflicted by the *Magistrate* as the appointed guardian of the public weal, but had been prostituted by them to subserve the malignant passion of revenge. The design of our Lord was to rescue it from this interpretation & restore it to its original purity. What stronger precepts on the love of enemies do we find in the N. Testament than those of Ex. XXIII. 4.5 — Sol. Prov. XXV. 21. &c I have not time or might cite some others.

Another objection I have to the Declaration is the assumption that those who do not take the ultra Peace ground do believe that the existing governments of the world are ordained of God, that they ~~are~~ "the powers that be" are *approvingly* ordained by Him. Surely no reflecting Christian can think so with regard to such a government as ours. ~~for~~ Nevertheless I am glad the Society has been formed & the Convention held because I believe it will elicit discussion & bring out the truth. But do

I thank thee for thy sympathy in my new cares, & am not surprized at the fear expressed in thy last that I shall like them too well, for this is my only fear. I assure thee I can now make very nice bread & am far prouder of it than I ever was my lectures. I do not agree with thee that I can now be doing any thing of more importance than superintending my household affairs, because in doing so I am proving that public lecturing does not unfit woman for private duties. No one than but Sister & myself can do our way & demonstrate this for the benefit of our sex at large.

Angelina Weld

about the Peace Conference

Anne Warren Weston
Care of Henry G. Chapman
Boston

tell me how you can consistently petition government to exercise a power which you believe to be usurped. Perhaps thou wilt be amazed to find I am not altered for thou appearest to think my mind was altogether settled but the fact is it never has been, for I am sure I never have seen to the bottom of the question & am still panting after the Truth.

Please hand the enclosed to A. S. I have just found out that she never received the invitation to our wedding. With love to thy Sister & our other Boston friends & love from Theodore & Sister to thyself, I remain thine Affly A G Weld

Oct 14. 1838

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